

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN
Scripture: Mark 7:24-37 Luke 9:34-35

The Race Question

Lesson for March 27, 1949.

JESUS DID NOT know there was a race question. That is to say, there was no question for him, though he well knew that his neighbors found the race problem a hot one. All the terms of any race problem, even of race riots, were there in Palestine as in all of our world today.

First there was the feeling of racial superiority. Few, if any, people think of themselves as an inferior race. Nobody would mind being kicked around, if he thought he deserved nothing better. The Jews, to which race Jesus belonged, were no exception to the rule. They felt themselves the superior of any race on earth.

Two Sides of the Question

IN JESUS' time the Jew of Palestine was in the middle. The Romans, having conquered the land, were top-dog in Palestine. With the Romans, the Jews saw the underside of the race question. But there were other races, much less pure than the Jews, races called "enkanites" for want of a better name. These people were kicked around by the Jews, just as the Jews in turn were kicked around by the Romans. Looking at the Canaanites, the Jews saw the race question from the top side.

In Palestine the wounds of race quarrels were made worse by the vinegar of religious differences. In these days it was taken for granted: Different race, different religion.

Jesus' neighbors and relatives in Nazareth, like most Jews, supposed that God would favor only the "chosen people," namely themselves. So the Jew's resentment toward the Romans above him and his contempt of the Canaanites beneath him were made more bitter by his conviction that they would all end in hell except his own race.

What Jesus Did About It

THE TWO STORIES in our lesson (see the Scripture references) show the astonishingly simple way in which Jesus walked straight through those walls as if they did not exist. He passed no resolutions, denounced nobody, he simply treated all races alike. He held the Roman army officer and the Canaanite woman precisely as if they had been Jews. By the way, his remarks to that woman should not be misunderstood as rude. She did not take them that way. He spoke to her, we may well believe, with a smile, and she took him with equal good humor. Jesus appreciated faith wherever he found it.

He was the last person to fancy that all human beings are alike. But he was the first to give all an equal chance. He took people as human beings, not as "Romans" or "Canaanites."

He neither cringed to the Romans nor bullied the Canaanites. He looked at all men and women with level eyes, seeing not their skins nor their clothes, but their hearts.

What We Can Do

OUR NORTH AMERICA is also criss-crossed by walls of prejudice—racial, political and religious. In Canada (for example) there is the friction between Canadians of French and those of English or Scotch descent; in the United States (not by any means confined to the South) between Negroes and white people, or between Japanese and white people; and recent immigrants; and so on. Those walls look pretty solid; but a Christian will find that if he follows Jesus' example he can walk right through them. Last winter a national interdenominational organization challenged its 28 million members and through them the Christian world, with one of the most sweeping declarations of human rights ever drafted by an American church body.

Hitting at every type of discrimination—a racial, political, social, economic, religious—the group has challenged the Church to work for the creation of a non-segregated society "as proof of their sincerity."

Yet the real breakdown of human prejudices, hatreds and contempt, with the injustices growing out of these, does not come at one stroke by resolutions. It comes only by degrees, as Christ-inspired individuals make their own bright doorways.

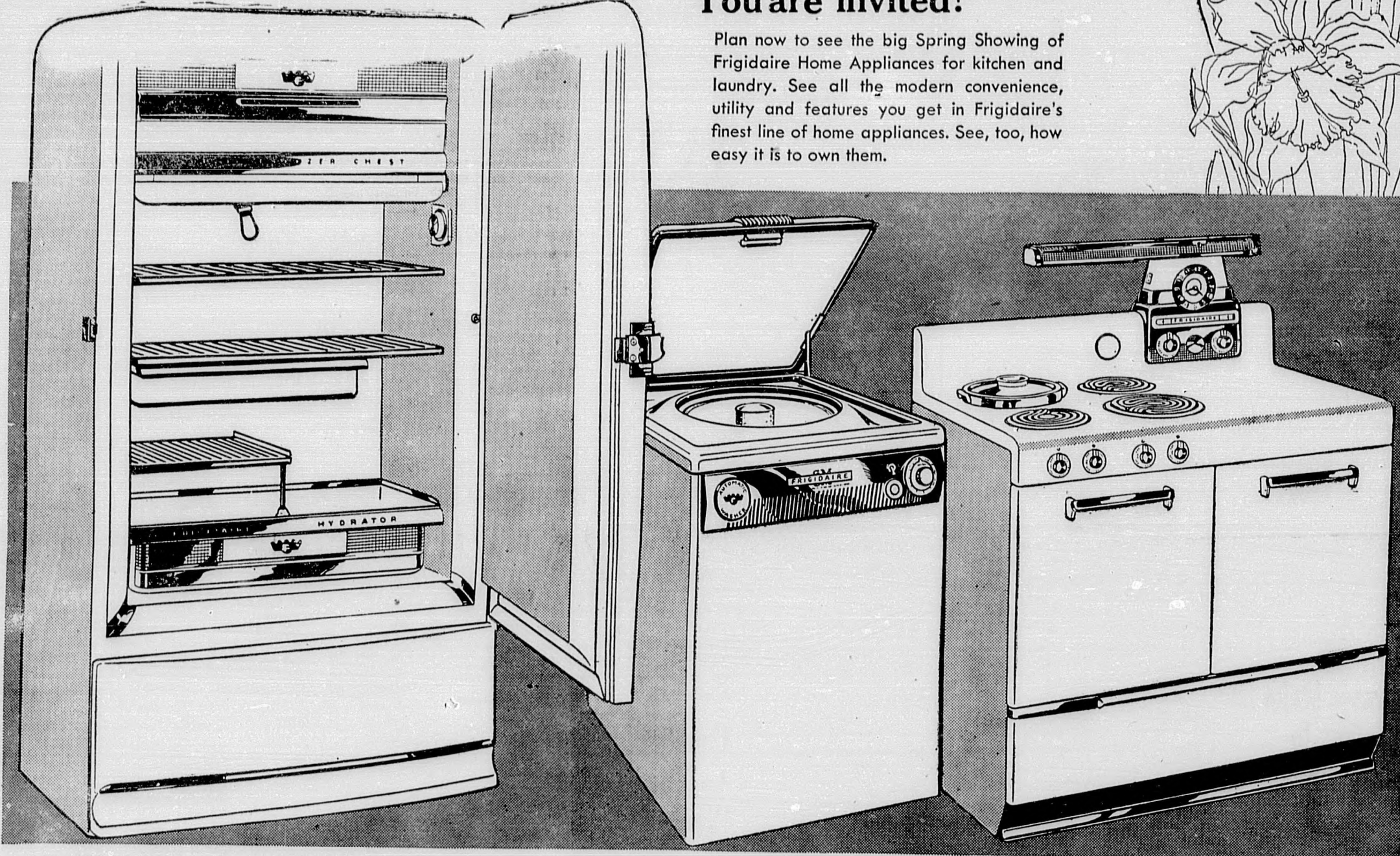
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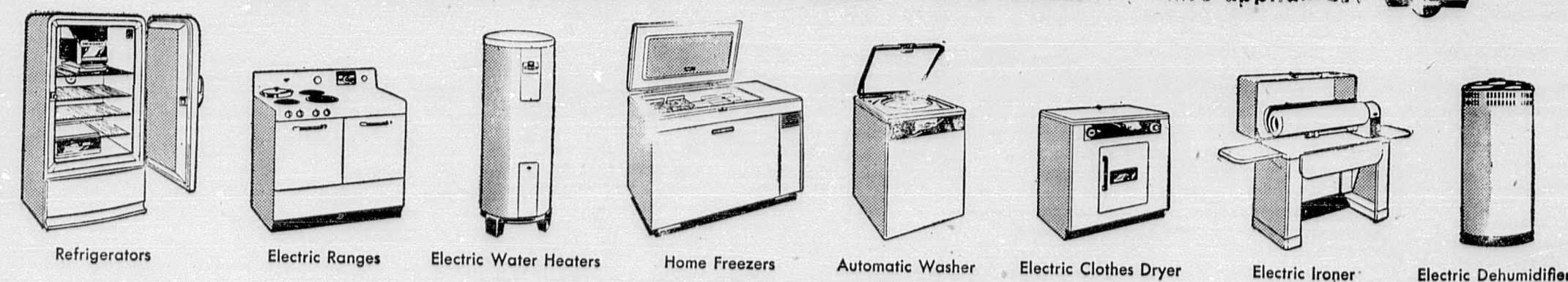
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SHORT STORY

Turkey In The Hay

By Dorothy Roseborough

CLETA BROWN was a furious. For the third time Seth Jones had caught her turkeys in his alfalfa. Now he was acting as if she had driven them in. Angrier, Seth ran across the field to head the turkeys from the newly flooded alfalfa. "Can't you keep those ding birds off my place?"

Cleta slapped her sunbonnet at the flustered turkeys. "Do you think I want 'em over here?"

"Get 'em off their feet and dying from it, maybe! They're under the fence and in your place before I know it!"

"Under the fence!" growled Seth. "They rise up and sail right over the 'fence' fool! Why don't you keep their wings clipped? Reckon you figger the more green feed your tom gets the better his chance to grab off first prize at the Fair."

Cleta flushed with anger. "That's a low-down remark!"

"Another thing," broke in Seth. "I don't want your tom with my flock. Keep your birds on your own place." He strode off to the irrigation ditch.

Cleta was proving up on her desert claim with a crop of milomatoes. The scattering grain made wonderful forage. But the field was

some distance from her homestead and the turkeys had to be driven there every day.

Before they started fussing about the turkeys Seth looked at her a lot. Maybe she could make him look at her again with that warm eagerness in his eyes.

Then she saw the turkeys were in the alfalfa again, and she turned in at Seth's gate. No one answered her shout as she galloped by the house to the field.

Jumping off her horse, Cleta snatched a blue sunbonnet and beat frantically at the fighting gobblers.

"Get away, you devils!" Cleta painted. She drove them off and dropped on her knees beside the birds which had dropped bleeding. She watched the victorious gobbler strutting and drumming his wings as he rounded up the hens; the bronze hens, the new members of his harem. She knew for sure then. Her bird had killed Seth's tom.

Cleta stood up. She saw Seth turning in at the gate, and as he hurried toward the field a hot triumph flooded through her. With Seth's gobble out of the running her turkey would surely win.

But this would end everything, she told herself. Cleta knew she could not bear to keep on fighting with Seth.

"So you let 'em get in again," he stormed. "Anyone with a brain might know this would happen."

Cleta was proving up on her desert claim with a crop of milomatoes. The scattering grain made wonderful forage. But the field was

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NATIONWIDE ALERT FOR 'X' DISEASE

Cattle raisers everywhere should be on the alert this year for possible outbreaks of "X" disease, the strange new malady that affects cattle of all ages but seems to be especially common among animals under 2 years old.

"X disease" already has caused cattle losses in more than 30 states. In some of the worst outbreaks, as many as 31 per cent of the animals in affected herds have been stricken. Among diseased cattle, the death rate has been as high as 80 per cent.

Just what causes "X disease," and how it is transmitted from one animal to another, no one yet knows. But extensive research investigations are being pointed up by the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry and veterinary research leaders. In the meantime, veterinarians are isolating identified cases immediately and developing techniques to combat the disease.

Symptoms usually include prolonged scouring, loss of appetite and weight, wart-like lumps in the mouth and on the tongue, and a heavy hardening of the skin over

the neck and shoulders. In diagnosing a suspected case, the veterinarian has to consider the entire pattern of symptoms. Otherwise, the disease may be confused with mange, virus scouring, or other ailments.

A recent survey of several outbreaks indicated that newly-purchased cattle have served as carriers or, in some way, brought "X disease" into home herds. So authorities are warning farmers to be especially careful in purchasing feeder stock or breeding animals. A veterinary check-up of the newcomers seems to be a wise precaution.

By herky's he exclaimed, "Blamed if I know which one it is!" He knelt and turned the gobbler over. "Well, I know my own bird, even if you don't," Cleta retorted. "So now you can go ahead and win that prize money you're so set up about."

"Dunno as I was any more set up than you," Seth jeered. His hands still busy with the bird, Seth looked from the dead bird to

the swelling gobbler tom with the hens. He grinned. "Say, Cleta, he drawled in the old friendly farming voice. 'Why don't you take that bird of yours home? He's cutting up something scandalous round them windows.'

Cleta reddened. "I tell you he's your bird," she insisted, moving toward her horse.

"Wait a minute! You know what I mean!" she called after him.



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Unhappily

"Kissing does not raise the blood pressure appreciable," writes a famous professor. He has our profound sympathy, in that manifestly he has never kissed a blonde.

Likely Story

"Don't you ever change your mind?"

"Not often anymore. I've found that I'm just as likely to be wrong on second thought as on first."

UNFRUITFUL

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darn well that's your tom with my proof—!" He spread the dead turkey's wing. Clipped in the thin membrane Cleta saw a narrow registration band.

He was smiling, but Cleta saw that his eyes were intent and eager. "It doesn't matter now," she murmured. "It's just that I felt so terrible."

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